

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING August 5, 2021 – MINUTES

Committee Members

Present

Lora Taylor, Committee
Chair
Hunter Adkins
Erica Brown, HHSC
Ronnie Browning
Kristen Cox
Mary Durham, Council
Chair
Sandra Magaña, UT-CDS
Susan Murphree, DRTx
Meagan Orsag, TAMU-CDD
Randell Resneder
Eric Shahid
Kim Torres

Committee Members

Absent

Michael Peace

Guests Present

Jennifer Bacak
Alex Cogan
Kyle Cox
Amy Litzinger
Laura Marquez
Stephanie Morris

Regional Coordinators

Present

Morgan Bradley
Rosa Guel
Skyler Mueller
Shelby Vaughn

Staff Members Present

Beth Stalvey, Executive
Director
Scott Daigle
Robert Garcia
Lauren Gerken
Sabrina Gonzalez
Stacey Kaleh
Genessee Klemm
Linda Logan
Evan Marczynski
Sylvia Medina
Richard Rendon
Mary Rochford
Rey Valldejuli
Koren Vogel
Rosalin Willis

Call to Order

Pursuant to the Governor's March 16, 2020 suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Public Policy Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities met virtually using the Zoom platform on Thursday, August 5, 2021. Committee Chair Lora Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced. Jennifer Bacak, TCDD Public Policy Fellow with Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P) was introduced to the Committee.

2. Public Comments

Jennifer Bacak, speaking on behalf of Texas Parent to Parent, provided comments regarding the Amber Alert system and children with developmental disabilities. Bacak states that TxP2P is wishing to convene a stakeholder

workgroup to investigate the creation of a rubric that addresses risk factors and protects children with disabilities.

3. **Consideration of May 6, 2021, Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the May 6, 2021, Public Policy Committee meeting and no additions or corrections were noted.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 6, 2021, Public Policy Committee meeting.

MADE BY: Randell Resneder

SECOND: Hunter Adkins

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. **Chair's Remarks**

- A. Member Absences: Chair Lora Taylor acknowledged the absence of Public Policy Committee Member Michael Peace.
- B. Chair's Quarterly Activities: Chair Lora Taylor discussed her activities of the previous quarter, specifically her advocacy efforts in response to the impact of Winter Storm Uri on people with disabilities. Chair Taylor is a member of the Durable Medical Equipment Taskforce and provided an overview of the work the taskforce has been doing. Most notably, the taskforce submitted a letter to the Texas Public Utility Commission that included a list of recommendations regarding emergency preparedness and people with disabilities.

5. **Member's Quarterly Activities Report**

Committee members provided personal updates from the previous quarter regarding involvement in advocacy and other activities.

6. **Ruth Mason Memorial Resolution**

Public Policy Director Scott Daigle presented information on House Resolution 1358, the Ruth Mason Memorial Resolution. The resolution was authored and passed by Representative Valoree Swanson and detailed the life and advocacy of former TCDD Council Member Ruth Mason. Committee Members shared caring memories of their beloved friend.

7. **Legislative Wrap-up**

Public Policy Director Daigle presented a wrap-up of the 87th Legislative Session and highlighted the work that the Policy team had done at the Capitol. Daigle highlights a few key bills related to people with disabilities that did not become law this session.

- A. Legislative Champions – Lawmakers: Public Policy Director Scott Daigle presented the lawmaker legislative champions nominees. Council Members discussed the nominees and their work on behalf of people with disabilities.

MOTION: To approve Representative Alex Dominguez, Senator Jose Menéndez and Representative Mary González as TCDD Legislative Champions of the 87th Legislative Session.

MADE BY: Randell Resneder

SECOND: Hunter Adkins

The motion **passed** unanimously. Council Member Kristen Cox and DRTx representative Susan Murphree abstained from the vote.

- B. Legislative Champions – Staff: Public Policy Director Scott Daigle presented the staff legislative champions nominees. Council Members discuss the nominees and their work on behalf of people with disabilities.

MOTION: To approve all the staff nominees that the Public Policy team presented as TCDD Legislative Champions of the 87th Legislative Session. The nominated staff to be recognized are:

- Alison Brock, senior policy aide for Sen. Lois Kolkhorst
- Allison Heinrich, legislative director for Rep. John Bucy III
- Alvaro Diaz, legislative aide for Sen. Judith Zaffirini
- Amanda Danielle González, legislative director for Rep. Armando Martinez
- Jim Johnson, chief of staff for Rep. James Frank
- Lillian Garvens, legislative aide for Rep. Gene Wu
- Logan Davidson, legislative director for Rep. Alex Dominguez
- Ted Raab, legislative director for Rep. Mary González

MADE BY: Randell Resneder

SECOND: Hunter Adkins

The motion **passed** unanimously. DRTx representative Susan Murphree abstained from the vote.

8. **Special Session Update**

Public Policy Director Daigle presented an update on the Special Session of the Texas Legislature and the items Governor Abbott included in the call. He shared that TCDD staff provided legislative input on two of the items on the call: bail reform and elections. Daigle also briefly explained the redistricting process and informed members that this process is expected to begin in the near future.

9. **Post Session Strategies**

Public Policy Director Daigle recapped what the Committee has previously discussed regarding post-session strategies and activities. Committee members then discussed a variety of issues that could be of interest for interim charge recommendations.

10. **State and Federal Policy Update**

Staff gave an update on their activities related to attending and presenting at conferences and submitting legislative input.

11. **Public Input on Committee Discussion**

Amy Litzinger, speaking on behalf of herself, provided feedback on the Committee's discussion related to wages and the attendant workforce, suggesting that work on the topic should also consider people using consumer directed services.

12. **Future Agenda Items**

Members discussed the logistics of meeting in-person for future Committee meetings.

13. **Other Discussion Items**

Chair Lora Taylor shared the dates of the November Council Meeting.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Taylor adjourned the Public Policy Committee at 4:01 PM.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council Date